

Message Text

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13

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 EB-11 TRSE-00 COME-00 CIAE-00 INR-10

NSAE-00 RSC-01 L-03 SCSE-00 PPTE-00 VOE-00 RSR-01

PA-03 PRS-01 USIA-12 /068 W
----- 001777

R 080700 Z MAY 73

FM AMEMBASSY PRAGUE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4291

UNCLAS PRAGUE 0971

E. O. 11652 N/A

TAGS: CGEN CZ ETRD

SUBJ: CZECHOSLOVAK INCREASES IN REQUIRED DAILY HARD CURRENCY
EXPENDITURE BY WESTERN TOURISTS.

1. MFA (REZAC) HAS CONFIRMED STATEMENT BY RUZYNE AIRPORT
OFFICIALS TO PANAM OFFICE THAT GOC HAS RAISED
THE REQUIRED PURCHASE OF CZECH CROWNS BY WESTERN TOURISTS FROM
FIVE TO SEVEN DOLLARS PER DAY OF STAY IN CSSR OR \$3.50 IF STAYING
WITH RELATIVES LIVING HERE. INCREASE, EFFECTIVE MAY 1, IS
BEING INDICATED ON ALL CSSR VISAS ISSUED ON OR AFTER THAT DATE.
TRAVELERS ENTERING CSSR WITH VISAS ISSUED PRIOR TO MAY 1 WILL
PAY OLD FIVE- DOLLAR RATE MARKED IN THEIR VISAS (\$2.50 FOR RELATIVES);
HOWEVER, IF THEY APPLY FOR EXTENSION OF STAY IN CSSR
BEYOND THAT ORIGINALLY ALLOWED BY VISA, NEW RATE WILL APPLY
TO ADDITIONAL TIME GRANTED.

2. AS IN PAST, BASED ON NUMBER OF DAYS' STAY FOR
WHICH THEIR VISAS ARE VALID, WESTERN TRAVELERS MUST MAKE
ENTIRE \$7- PER- DAY PURCHASE OF CROWNS AT BORDER CROSSINGS OR
AIRPORTS WHEN FIRST ARRIVING IN CSSR. THERE IS ONE
EXCEPTION: WHEN APPLYING FOR CSSR VISA, TRAVELER MAY
INDICATE ON APPLICATION FORM THAT HE INTENDS TO PAY FOR
HIS HOTELS, MEALS, ETC WITH AMERICAN EXPRESS, DINERS, MASTER
CHARGE, CARTE BLANCHE, OR BANK- AMERICARD CHARGE CARD. VISA
CAN THEN BE ANNOTATED BY ISSUING OFFICE TO PERMIT BEARER
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TO ENTER CSSR WITHOUT IMMEDIATELY PURCHASING CROWNS.
HOWEVER, TRAVELER MUST SPECIFICALLY REQUEST THIS ANNOTATION
BEFORE VISA IS ISSUED, FURNISH CHARGE CARD NUMBERS, AND THEN
MUST POSSESS SUFFICIENT CHARGE RECEIPTS UPON LEAVING CSSR
TO SATISFY CUSTOMS OFFICIALS THAT HE SPENT EQUIVALENT OF
\$7 PER DAY WHILE HERE.
SHERER

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NMAFVVZCZ

*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** UNCLASSIFIED

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